

of the sandwich panel, the front and rear surface layers are prevented from being damaged or removed from the honeycomb core. As a result, the sandwich panel with high durability can be obtained. Moreover, even when the ambient pressure is returned to a normal pressure or increased above atmospheric pressure, since air flows into the honeycomb core, no excessive force is applied to the honeycomb sandwich panel. The honeycomb core may be made of Nomex®, a registered trademark of E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, DE, for an aramid fiber, aluminum or a fiber reinforced plastic. Since the front and rear surface layers have air passages connected to the outside, the shape of the panel is not limited by the process for forming end faces (edge) of the panel but has a degree of freedom. For example, it is possible to form a panel or a structure member with a closed cross section to improve the torsional rigidity. Thus, the panel or a structure member has (much) more freedom of strength. Furthermore, since no special process is additionally required, the manufacturing cost can be saved.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

1. (Amended) A honeycomb sandwich panel comprising:
a honeycomb core having a number of cells extending therethrough in a thickness direction of the honeycomb core; and
a front surface layer and a rear surface layer provided on both sides of the cells in the thickness direction of the honeycomb core and closing openings of the cells, at least